

DecoArt®

MADE FOR MAKERS®

Colour Mixing: Ratios

Color Theory with Tracy Moreau

Learn more at DecoArt's Art For Everyone Learning Center

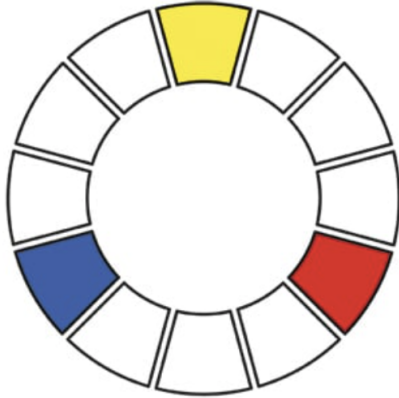


DecoArt®
ART for
Everyone!
LEARNING CENTER

**FREE
ONLINE
ART
LESSONS**

Primary Colours

In painting, the three primary colours are yellow, red, and blue. These colors cannot be created by mixing other colours. They are called primary because all other colours are derived from them.



PRIMARY

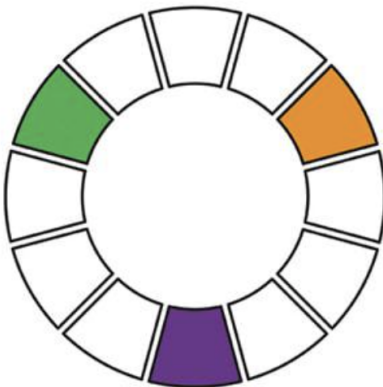
YELLOW

RED

BLUE

Mixing Primary Colours Creates Secondary Colours

If you combine two primary colours you get a secondary colour. For example, red and blue make violet, yellow and red make orange, and blue and yellow make green. If you mix all of the primary colours together you get black.



SECONDARY

ORANGE

VIOLET

GREEN

The Mixing Ratio for Primary Colours

To get orange, you mix the primary colours red and yellow. The mixing ratio of these two colours determines which shade of orange you will get after mixing. For example, if you use more red than yellow you will get a reddish-orange. If you add more yellow than red you will get a yellowish-orange. Experiment with the shades you have to see what you can create. Try out different combinations and mixing ratios and keep a written record of your results so that you can mix the colours again for future paintings.

Tertiary Colours

By mixing a primary and a secondary colour or two secondary colours you get a tertiary colour. Tertiary colours such as blue-lilac, yellow-green, green-blue, orange-yellow, red-orange, and violet-red are all created by combining a primary and a secondary colour.



TERTIARY

YELLOW ORANGE

RED ORANGE

RED VIOLET

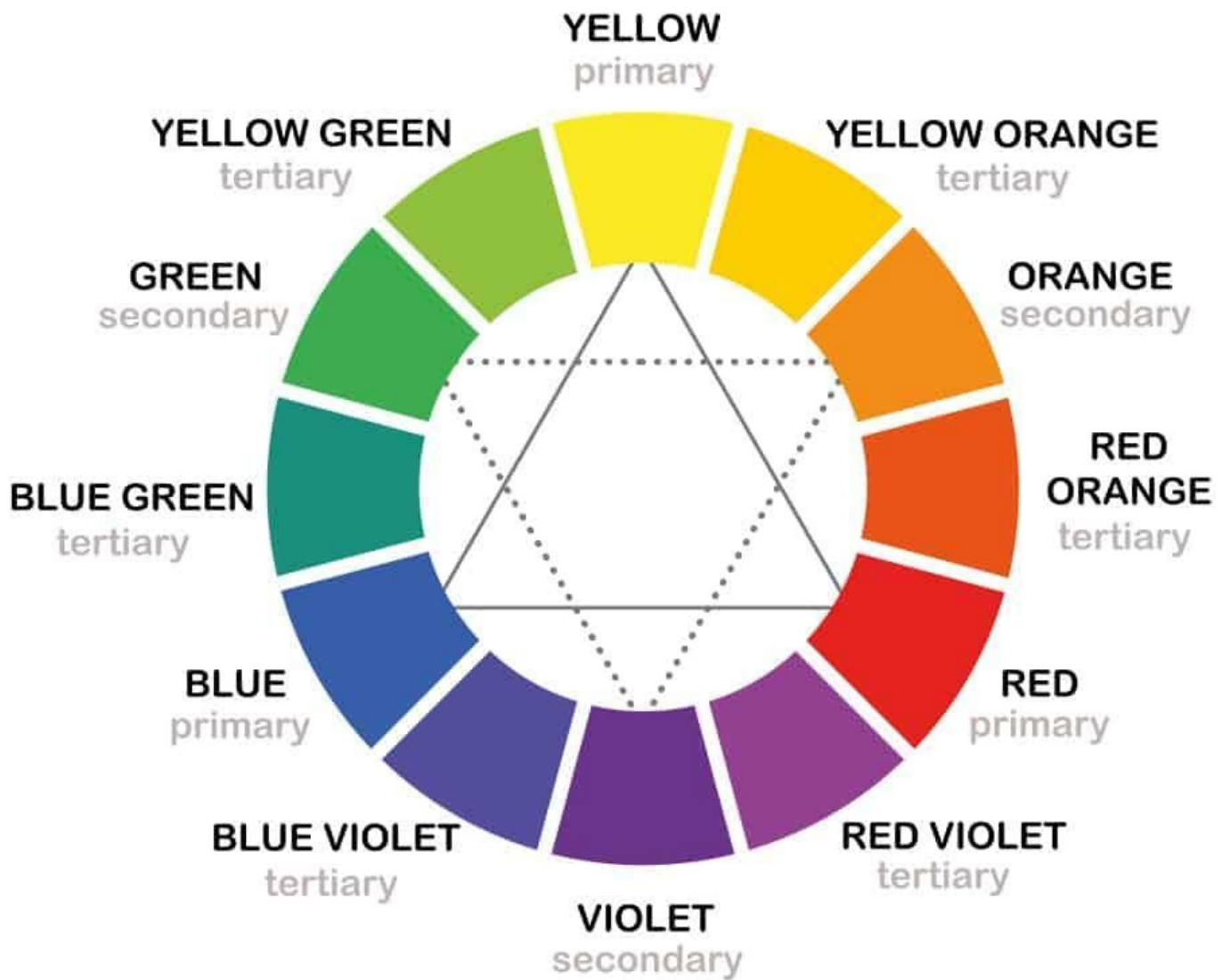
BLUE VIOLET

BLUE GREEN

YELLOW GREEN

The Mixing Ratios of Light and Dark Colours

If you want to darken a colour, you only need to add a small amount of black or another dark colour. For shades you want to lighten, you need to add a lot of white or another lighter colour. Therefore you should be especially careful when mixing darker shades, as only a little is necessary to achieve a difference. If you mix a color too dark, you will need to add more white to lighten it back up. Remember, you can always add more paint but you can't take it away - so exercise caution when mixing!



Relax a little! There's No Need to Mix Colours Completely

For a natural result you shouldn't mix the colours you're using too thoroughly. Lightly mixing creates small variations within the mixed colour for a more harmonious impression. This kind of natural color variation works especially well in nature images such as landscapes and florals.

Mixing Colours – Warm and Cool Shades

On the color wheel some colors are considered warm whereas others are considered cool. Reds, oranges, and yellows are on the warm side and blues, greens, and purples are on the cool side. It is possible to mix these characteristics, for example, to create a warm sky blue. If you mix two warm colours together the result is also a warm colour. Mixing a warm and a cool colour on the other hand, results in a neutral colour tone.